Accountability Report

2015–2016

Office of Immigration

NOVA SCOTIA

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration for the year ending March 31, 2016 is prepared pursuant to the Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration Statement of Mandate for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by Nova Scotia Office of Immigration management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Nova Scotia Office of Immigration management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration 2015-2016 Statement of Mandate

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration

Original signed by

Lena Metlege Diab
Minister

Original signed by

Julie Towers
Chief Executive Officer

Message from the Minister of Immigration and Chief Executive Officer

We are pleased to report on the accomplishments of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration (NSOI) for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

For the first time, Nova Scotia has an exclusive Minister dedicated solely to the Immigration portfolio and over the last year, NSOI has made significant strides in maximizing the immigration pathways to Nova Scotia. To address our challenges related to an aging population and outmigration as well as to help employers who are experiencing labour shortages. We continue to advance this file in partnership with the federal government.

- In 2015 we met our original federal allocation of 1,050 nominations and were able to successfully negotiate for an additional 300 nominations. The 1,350 nominations nearly doubled our allocation of 700 in 2014 and was the highest number of nominations ever made through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP).

In 2015-16, a number of changes were made to enhance the nominee program.

- Nova Scotia was the first jurisdiction in Canada to launch an immigration stream to take advantage of the Federal Government's Express Entry intake system. Nova Scotia Demand: Express Entry was launched in January 2015. Nova Scotia Experience: Express Entry was launched a few months later. Both streams target highly skilled and experienced candidates who meet Nova Scotia's labour and economic needs.
- In December, NSOI launched an online application system that has streamlined the NSNP application process, improved processing times and has enhanced access to applicants.
- A number of French language products were developed and launched including the complete translation of the NSOI public facing website.
- Two new business streams, Entrepreneur and International Graduate Entrepreneur, were officially launched on January 1, 2016. The streams target individuals who want to start or purchase a business in Nova Scotia and were designed with strong program integrity measures including third-party auditing of financial statements, net worth verification and a temporary to permanent model that brings applicants to the province to start their business on a temporary permit. Only when the applicant has met the terms of their performance agreement will he/she receive a nomination for permanent residence.

In 2015-16, collaboration and dialogue featured prominently in our activities and informed our approach.

- We worked with Nova Scotian employers to participate in domestic and international recruitment missions that assist employers to find the skilled labour they need to support their business needs and the broader economy. We participated in the *Working In* international recruitment mission in London, England and the Emigratiebeurs Expo in the Netherlands to link Nova Scotia businesses to skilled international job seekers.

- Over the summer of 2015, we led eight immigration consultations in communities across the province and held workshops at every university and community college campus to better understand what people were saying about immigration and to encourage more collaboration at the community level.
- In October 2015, we held our first Immigration Summit at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. More than 200 people attended the daylong conference, including newcomers, international students, settlement workers, employers, municipal officials, and representatives from universities, professional associations, and cultural groups.

The Syrian Refugee initiative presented an unprecedented opportunity for all Nova Scotians to be involved in the immigration system. In strong support of the Federal Government commitment to resettle 25,000 refugees in Canada, the Nova Scotia government committed to welcoming 1500 refugees to the province. By the end of March 2016, over 1000 refugees were resettled here. The NSOI response included:

- A cross-government, multi-agency coordinated approach with the Emergency Management Office of Nova Scotia (EMO), the Immigration Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) and Public Safety Canada to manage the Refugee Initiative. Non-government organizations including the Red Cross, 211, and YMCA as well as private industry and regular Nova Scotians all supported the effort to bring refugees to Nova Scotia and help them build a new life.
- Working with community groups, municipalities, Sponsorship Agreement Holders and universities to support private sponsorship efforts;
- Utilizing the provincial 211 system to coordinate donations and volunteer offers to help;
- A Donations Drop-Off Centre in Halifax;
- A Community Refugee Support Fund;
- A new integrated settlement approach with additional funding.

We are proud of the work that has been accomplished in 2015-16 and look forward to continuing efforts into the future.

Original signed by

Lena Metlege Diab
Minister

Original signed by

Julie Towers
Chief Executive Officer

Financial Results

Office of Immigration		
	Estimate 2015-16	Actuals 2015-16
	($ thousands)	($ thousands)
Total Gross Office Expenses:	$9,090	$8,910
Less: Chargeable to Other Departments	($1,600)	(1,689)
Net Expenses:	$7,490	$7,221
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	27.0	27.5

Performance Measurement

Attraction and Recruitment

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2015	Results
Immigration activities address Nova Scotia's economic and labour market gaps.	Number of new immigrant landings per calendar year.	2003: 1474	2,750	3,403 NSOI surpassed its 2015 target of 2,750 landings in 2015. NSOI's 2016 target is 3,000. Landings measure the actual immigrants who arrive in Nova Scotia. Landings are delayed from year-to-year because of federal processing times, or changes in personal circumstances. For instance, someone nominated in 2015 may not actually "land" in Nova Scotia until 2016 or 2017.

* See table next page for more detailed breakdown of landing numbers.

Breakdown of Landings –Nominee Program (NP) Principal Applicants, Dependents vs Exclusively Federal Pathways											
Category/Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
NP Principal Applicant	105	253	287	319	291	289	347	441	656	655	555
NP Spouse or Dependents	221	610	613	547	506	341	430	514	546	744	839
NP Total	326	863	900	866	797	630	777	955	1202	1399	1394
NP % of Landings	17%	33%	36%	33%	33%	26%	36%	41%	48%	52%	41%
All Federal	1603	1723	1623	1785	1591	1767	1359	1384	1325	1269	2009
Federal % of Landings	83%	67%	64%	67%	67%	74%	64%	59%	52%	48%	59%
GRAND TOTAL	1929	2586	2523	2651	2388	2397	2136	2339	2527	2668	3403

Source: IRCC Permanent Residents Q12016 data

Integration and Retention

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2015	Results
Nova Scotia's immigration policies and settlement activities support immigrants and their families to successfully settle and integrate in their new community.	Percentage of all immigrants arriving in Nova Scotia in a five-year period remaining in the sixth year.	2008 IMDB: 69%	70% or better retention rate (2013)*.	71%* retention rate, hitting the target established in the 2015-16 Statement of Mandate. NSOI has re-committed to maintaining a 70% or higher retention rate in 2016. This measure changed for 2016-17 to [Percentage of all tax-filing immigrants arriving in Nova Scotia in a six year period remaining in the sixth year.] The retention rate using the new measure is 74%

NOTE:
This measure was originally created using a baseline of 37% from the 2001 national census. The figure rose to 63% by the 2006 Census. However, when the long form census was discontinued in 2011, it was no longer possible to track retention with census data. Currently, NSOI uses tax filer data from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) to calculate retention rates.

*There is a two year time lag in the availability of data from IMBD, the latest available data is for the 2013 tax year.

Leadership and Policy Development

Outcome	Measure	Base Year	Annual Target: 2015	Results
Increase the number of annual provincial nominations.	Number of certificates issued annually per calendar year.	2003: 23	1050	1,350 NSOI surpassed its 2015 target of 1050. The Province was able to negotiate an increase to the NSNP allocation from 1,050 to 1,350. The 1,350 nominations nearly doubled the allocation of 700 in 2014 and was the highest number of nominations ever made under the NSNP. This was a direct result of the NSOI's advancements in recruitment activities and stakeholder engagement. NSOI has set the 2016 target at 1,350 certificates.

Supplemental Information and Appendices

In 2015-16 the strategic outcomes were identified as Attraction and Recruitment; Integration and Retention; and Leadership and Policy Development. Our work is guided by our strategic outcomes and some highlights from 2015-16 are below.

Attraction and Recruitment:

In 2015, Nova Scotia nominated 1,350 immigrants to the province, the highest number to date.

NSOI maximized the provinces access to the new federal Express Entry program, allowing for a faster, streamlined application process. In 2015, NSOI launched Nova Scotia Demand: Express Entry and Nova Scotia Experience: Express Entry. Both streams attract high human capital applicants whose skills and experience align with the province's labour market needs. In December 2015, NSOI launched an on-line application system for all Nova Scotia Nominee Programs.

In 2015-16, NSOI engaged with a wide-range of stakeholders to promote Nova Scotia as an immigration destination and recruit individuals who meet the province's economic needs. NSOI worked closely with business owners in the province to increase their awareness of the Nova Scotia Nominee Program and federal immigration pathways. NSOI staff marketed Nova Scotia at national and international career fairs and conferences.

In 2015, total immigrant landings were 3,403, this is the highest number of immigrants to NS in 10 years.

Integration and Retention:

NSOI expanded the immigration pathways available through the NSNP to encourage the retention of international graduates in Nova Scotia, a highly skilled population. Nova Scotia Experience: Express Entry is an immigration pathway for foreign nationals working in the province, including those on a post-graduate work permit. The International Graduate Entrepreneur Stream, launched January 1, 2016, is a pathway for students who have graduated from a Nova Scotia university or community college and who have started their own business and intend to settle permanently in NS.

The Entrepreneur Stream, launched January 1, 2016, is designed to encourage retention. This stream targets individuals who wish to start or buy a business in the province. Successful applicants come to Nova Scotia on a work permit to start their business. They sign a performance agreement and if the terms of the agreement are met, they are nominated by the province.

Refugees

In late 2015 the Government of Canada announced an accelerated response to the Syrian Refugee crisis, committing to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees. By the end of March 2016, over 1,000 Syrian refugees were living in Nova Scotia. NSOI lead the provincial response and worked closely with settlement and community partners to support settlement of these refugees. This included use of the Provincial 211 system to coordinate offers of support from Nova Scotians; a cross-government working group to prepare and coordinate provincial services and programs; a refugee donations centre; and a refugee welcome centre.

Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing

The Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011. The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith. The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board.

A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations

b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets

c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment, or

d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration:

Information Required under Section18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2015-16
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	0
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	0